

Physical Model of Earth's Surface Features

Directions: (This recipe may be used if making model from play dough.)

- 1.Mix dry 3/4 cup flour and 1/4 cup salt.
- 2.Add a few tablespoons of water.
- 3.Knead mixture together until it is the consistency of bread dough.
- 4.Mold dough into fat hamburger shapes. (This recipe will make enough for 3 students.)

Whole Group Instructions (read aloud to class):

- 1.Pull up two “mountains” near each other (don’t pull dough apart).
- 2.Push in an area for a lake with your thumb.
- 3.Use your little finger to carve a river from the valley to the lake and the edge of an ocean area.
- 4.Flatten an area for the desert.
- 5.Pull up a smaller hill near the desert and a flat plain area.
- 6.Carefully place your Earth model on a small paper plate and let dry for a couple days.
- 7.Now you are ready to use tempera paint to color the various parts of your structure.
blue = the bodies of water (oceans, lakes, rivers)
brown = desert
black or grey = mountains
green = the landforms (plains, hills, valleys)
- 8.Cut and glue the tags below on the different features of your Earth model.

Lake	Desert	Mountain	Hill
River	Ocean	Plain	Valley

Follow-up Assessment Questions:

- 1.Which feature is the highest on your model? (*mountain*)
- 2.Where would you find the most amount of water? (*ocean*)
- 3.How does water get from the lake to the ocean? (*river*)
- 4.If rain fell on the mountain, how might it get to the lake? (*rivers and streams*)
- 5.Which area is the driest? (*desert*)